

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/409,831

Examiner

Igor Borissov

Applicant(s)

FOX ET AL.

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Appeal Brief filed on 10/20/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 10-14,24,26,27 and 29.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 September 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

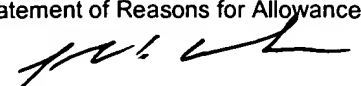
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 1/7/2005.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ronald A. D'Alessandro (Reg. No.: 42,456) on Monday, December 6, 2004.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

- 3.1. Claims 1-9, 15-23, 25 and 28 have been cancelled.
- 3.2. Claim 10, line 4, before "database tool" add --computerized--; line 6, after "invoices" add --with a processor,--.
- 3.3. 24. (Once Amended). A computer program product for processing invoices, said computer program product comprising:
 - a computer readable medium comprising computer program code for performing the following steps;
 - ~~program code for~~ entering and ~~means for~~ storing one or more unmatched invoices in an invoice processing tool;
 - ~~program code for~~ providing a database tool having one or more goods received receipts stored in a database;
 - ~~program code for~~ periodically inquiring to determine if a new goods received receipt (GRR) is present;

Art Unit: 3629

~~program code for~~ performing a logical three-way match between the GRR and each of the one or more unmatched invoices, wherein the logical three-way match includes:

comparing a GRR number on the unmatched invoice with a GRR number on the GRR;

comparing a unit price on the unmatched invoice with a unit price on the GRR;

comparing a quantity on the unmatched invoice with a quantity on the GRR; and

finding a match if one of the following is true:

(1) the GRR numbers match, the unit prices match, and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice;

(2) no match was found for (1), and the GRR numbers match and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice;

(3) no match was found for (1) and (2), and the unit prices match and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice; and

(4) no match was found for (1), (2) and (3), and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice and the unmatched invoice is the oldest unmatched invoice;

~~program code for~~ generating a logical result of each logical three-way match; and

~~program code for~~ transferring a matched invoice and a corresponding logical result to the database tool.

3.4. 26. (Once Amended). The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the computer readable medium further comprises ~~further comprising computer~~

Art Unit: 3629

program code for performing the following step: storing purchase orders in the database.

3.5. 27. (Once Amended). Computer executable process steps each step performed by operative to control a computer, stored on a computer readable medium, for processing invoices, comprising;

- a step to periodically inquire to determine if a new goods received receipt (GRR) is present;

- a step to perform a logical three-way match between the GRR and an unmatched invoice, wherein the logical three-way match includes:

- a step to compare a GRR number on the unmatched invoice with a GRR number on the GRR;

- a step to compare a unit price on the unmatched invoice with a unit price on the GRR;

- a step to compare a quantity on the unmatched invoice with a quantity on the GRR;

- a step to obtain a logical match result if one of the following is true:

- (1) the GRR numbers match, the unit prices match, and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice;

- (2) no match was found for (1), and the GRR numbers match and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice;

- (3) no match was found for (1) and (2), and the unit prices match and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice; and

- (4) no match was found for (1), (2) and (3), and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice and the unmatched invoice is the oldest unmatched invoice;

Art Unit: 3629

a step to generate a logical result of each logical three-way match; and
a step to transfer a matched invoice and a corresponding logical result to the database tool.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 10-14, 24, 26, 27 and 29 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
6. As per independent claims 10, 24 and 27, the best prior art, Moriyama (U. S. 4,851,999) in view of Three Way Match Requirement for All Procurement Component Payment by Minnesota Depadments of Finance and Administration (Three Way Match Requirement) teach general-purpose management method, a computer readable medium having instruction embedded therein to perform said method, and system, comprising providing transactional files in a database; periodically inquiring for new goods identifiers in said database; and performing logical operations (processing data relating to the receipt of materials); wherein said logical operations include verifying that: shipment or receipt of the goods or services is correct when compared to the purchase order; the vendor's invoice for delivery of the goods is correct when compared with the purchase order and the receipt step; and the payment for the received goods is correct when compared with the purchase order, receipt of goods and the vendor's invoice.

However, Moriyama in view of Three Way Match Requirement do not teach that, during the processing of said three fields (the new goods received receipt (GRR), the unit price, and the quantity), if one or more of the fields, e.g. the GRR number, do not match, the match can still be made using the remaining fields. More specifically, Moriyama in view of Three Way Match Requirement do not teach that a match is found if one of the following is true: (1) the GRR numbers match, the unit prices match, and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice; (2) no match was found for (1), and the GRR numbers match and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice; (3) no

Art Unit: 3629

match was found for (1) and (2), and the unit prices match and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice; and (4) no match was found for (1), (2) and (3), and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice and the unmatched invoice is the oldest unmatched invoice; generating a logical result of each logical three-way match.

7. The best foreign prior art found by the examiner is JP411222305A to Yada, which appears to disclose a method for receipt confirmation of goods during delivery, wherein goods are checked to be received in a designated address when the decision result of a receipt confirmation apparatus indicates that the concurrence evaluation of second information transmitted from the address to the receipt confirmation apparatus matches with first information, fails to disclose performing a logical three-way match between a GRR and unmatched invoices.

8. The remaining depended claims 11-14, 26 and 29 are considered allowable as they are dependent and based off of an allowable independent claim.

9. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

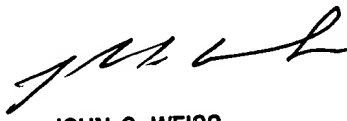
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Igor Borissov at telephone number (703) 305-4649. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, John Weiss, can be reached at (703) 308- 2702.

Art Unit: 3629

11. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

12. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-3597 for After Final communications.

IB
1/15/2005



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